



RI Department of Health
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www.health.ri.gov

Interim Health Advisory

Date: September 2, 2009
To: All Healthcare Providers
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 in RI

Rhode Island: 203 confirmed positive cases, 75 hospitalized to date, 3 deaths
National Report: 52 states (including DC, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 8,843 hospitalized cases, 556 deaths

Dr. Sanjay Gupta offers advice to parents on H1N1

CNN's Dr. Sanjay Gupta has created a parents' guide to H1N1, which contains key points for parents of young children about what they should do if their children develop flu-like symptoms. Dr. Gupta emphasizes that parents should call their pediatricians' offices before bringing their children in. He also reminds parents that most children will experience mild illness and recover at home within a few days. Finally, he lists warning signs in children that warrant emergency medical attention. HEALTH endorses these recommendations for parents of young children. Parents who wish to read Dr. Gupta's messages to parents in their entirety should see <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/01/parents.h1n1.flu.guide.gupta/index.html?iref=newssearch>.

Pediatric Flurivin available next week

HEALTH has procured 20,000 doses of Flurivin injectable seasonal influenza vaccine for release starting Tuesday, September 8. Flurivin is indicated for use with children 4 years and older. Providers will be responsible for picking up the vaccine at The Wellness Company on a first-come, first-serve basis. Practices can receive up to 50% of the total pre-booked amount for the 3-18 year old category for injectable vaccines. A letter with more information about picking up the vaccine is being distributed this week to all state-supplied vaccine providers.

MMWR: Use of Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 Monovalent Vaccine

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued recommendations for vaccine programs and providers regarding the use of the H1N1 vaccine. Licensed H1N1 vaccine is expected to become available by mid-October. The guiding principle of the recommendations is to vaccinate as many people as possible as quickly as possible. Vaccination should begin as soon as the vaccine becomes available. The recommendations also provide information on target groups for initial vaccination efforts. HEALTH will focus initial efforts on vaccinating individuals in tier I target groups. Vaccinations for priority populations will take place during a three-month campaign beginning this October. To read the full MMWR report, see <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr58e0821a1.htm>.

Flu campaign begins next week

HEALTH will kick off its seasonal and H1N1 flu campaign with a press event next Thursday morning, September 10 at the State House. Vaccinations for seasonal flu will begin first this fall, followed by vaccinations for H1N1 starting this October. HEALTH will provide more information about its flu campaign to providers as it becomes available.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>